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Pope Benedict XVI to resign in historic move



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI announced on Monday he will resign due to old age, becoming the first pontiff in 700 years to step down because he could no longer fulfil his duties, in a move that stunned the world.

The German-born leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics said he would resign on February 28 after just

eight years as pope, making his one of the shortest pontificates in modern history.

The 85-year old pontiff made the announcement in a speech in Latin at a meeting with world cardinals in his residence in the Apostolic Palace, dressed in red vestments and with his voice barely audible as he read a written text.

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Carnival 59 finishes with a flourish with the Grand Parades in San Nicolas & Oranjestad



Thousands of costumed dancers wended their way through the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad in the culmination of events that comprise Aruba's Carnival, the Grand Parades. The spectacular finish to the carnival season is when all the groups pull out all the stops. Tens of thousands lined the streets to watch the procession of fabulous outfits, fantastical make-up, sumptuous floats and road pieces, which groups keep "under wraps" until these last demonstrations of carnival artistry.

No matter what has preceded during the season, the final events still amaze, and Carnival 59, when most expected the groups to hold back a bit in anticipation of next year's landmark event, Carnival 60, was every bit as breathtaking as grand parades of previous years.

Aruba's 59th Carnival Queen, Samantha Robert and

her group, Royal Carnival Group, led the parade followed by Champagne, T.O.B, Los Laga Bai, Pleasers and Teasers, Dushi Carnival Group, OPC, with Majestic and X-Lanz group bringing up the rear of this six hour show by more than 2000 par-

ticipants.

Some heavy showers on Sunday in the late afternoon did not douse the enthusiasm for carnival by group members, bands or their audience in the slightest!

(more photo coverage on pg 4

By Rosalie Klein



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They don't seek any titles, but the Drewes family members are true Aruban Ambassadors of Goodwill



Warren and Sam with their treasures, Payton and Luke

This year, the Aruba Beach Club is celebrating 35 years hosting island visitors, and celebrating along with them is a family that was one of the

first to purchase timesharing on Aruba, and has visited the island annually ever since the ABC opened its doors.

Warren and Dr. Sandra

Drewes of St. Charles Illinois first discovered the island in 1974, spending a week at the Divi Resort, which they found "absolutely delightful."

First Installment of family and friends

Two years later, Dr. Drewes, a respected anesthesiologist, returned to the Divi Resort for a medical convention.

"I was with my partner in our practice, and we noticed they had cleared the land next

to the resort, so we went to investigate," recalls Sandra, known as "Sam" to all her family and friends. "We met Frank Conroy, and he introduced us to the concept of timesharing."

Continued on pg 3



The perfect Valentine's Day with your lover: Fundraising Sweetheart's Dinner Dance



The stalwart group of island visitors who comprise the Friends of the Handicapped Foundation are again conducting their annual fundraising Valentine's Day Sweethearts Dinner Dance at



the Radisson Resort. This bargain-priced evening of wine, fine food, an elegant happy hour and fun galore is taking place Thursday night and is only \$90 per person, which includes a one-hour happy hour prior to dinner with a full bar.



The Friends of the Handicapped have been conducting fundraising events annually for 26 years, distributing all proceeds to Aruban foundations that perform important work for the mentally and physically challenges.

Continued on pg 5

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Drewes family members are true Aruban Ambassadors of Goodwill...

Continued from pg 2

"What the heck is time-sharing?" was what we thought."

Sam could not ignore that very attractive \$2,500 price tag and the option to cancel if she had second thoughts, so reserved a week in mid-January, a good time to escape Chicago's bitter winters. She brought the contract home to her husband, a real estate banking executive, for his army of lawyers to look over. "None of Warren's 90 lawyers had the remotest idea regarding timesharing or what it was, but we figured it was worth a try. We already know we loved Aruba. We enjoyed our first week at the Beach Club less than a month after it officially opened."

Nine months after that, their first daughter, Casey, was born. (It was carnival time after all; not an uncommon occurrence.) Eventually, the Drewes acquired 13 weeks at the ABC, of which six they use personally to winter in Aruba. Their second daughter, Dyan, has been coming to the island annually since she was one month old. "Now that we are retired, we travel quite a bit, all over the world, but Aruba is our place for the family to be together,"



Sam and the apple of her eye: granddaughter Payton explains Sam. "Our daughters now live far away from us, one in Texas and the other Florida, but we have two weeks for each of them, so we can all be together here and relax. The other weeks go to friends and family, so we are just one big happy group for around four of the weeks we stay here during the winter." They figure they have had as many as 24 gathered around the pool during those weeks.

The Drewes have their favorite restaurants, and every Tuesday and Thursday for sunset you will find them all taking a sailing trip on the

Octopus trimaran. It was on the boat where Dyan first learned to snorkel, eventually to make her living as a scuba instructor in the Florida Keys. For fifteen years, Warren's father, Wayne, was a regular fixture at the ABC and on the boat, beloved by all. When he passed on, it was on the Octopus that Warren spread his ashes at sea, as Wayne had wished.

"People ask us why we come back to Aruba for so many weeks every year," explain the Drewes. "We have visited islands in nearly every sea and ocean in the world, and certainly, most the Caribbean, but really, none compare. No where have we ever seen such a beautiful beach as Eagle Beach; you can walk for miles in the morning and barely see a soul. It is so tranquil, yet, Aruba has something for everyone. Our big group has very diverse interests, but they are always kept busy. There is golf, the great beaches, fabulous restaurants, excellent SCUBA diving, and every water activity imaginable, with new things every year. The lovely, hospitable people remain the same, and we look forward to

seeing the wonderful friends we and our daughters have made at the Beach Club. It really is "our home away from home."

Though Warren and Sam have never been named "Distinguished Visitors," or "Am-

bassadors of Goodwill," they have also never sought it out. "Just being here every year with our loved ones, and now our grandchildren, is more than enough."

By Rosalie Klein

Tuscan Italian Lover's Night



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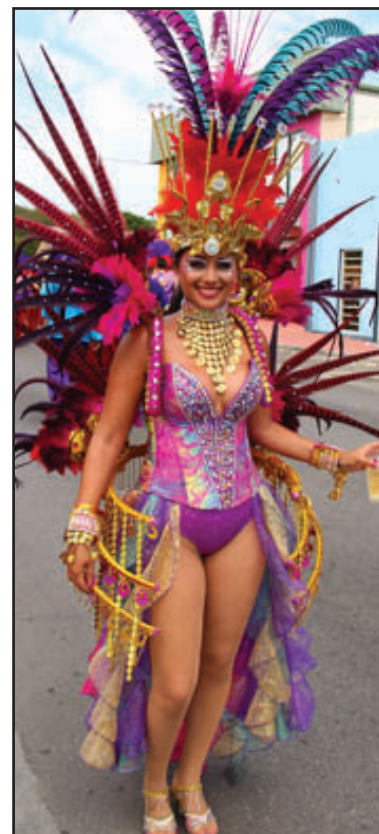
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Oranjestad Grand Carnival Parade



Carnival 59 officially ends tonight with burning of Rey Momo



"Rey Momo"

60 season begin. This heralds the commencement of Lent. Festivities, music and presentations begin at 8:00 PM.
By Rosalie Klein

All who wish to enjoy one last celebration of the carnival season can join in a final event at the Aruba Entertainment Center on the eastern outskirts of Oranjestad. All of carnival royalty, the queens and various prins and panchos will be gather to bid farewell to Carnival 59 with the burning of "Rey Momo."

A traditional Caribbean figure that rules over the night and wild revelries, "Rey Momo" is an impressive effigy dressed in regal carnival garb. At the stroke of midnight, he shall be set alight, setting the spirit of Carnival 59 fully to rest, only to rise again from the ashes as Carnival

The perfect Valentine's Day with your lover: Fundraising Sweetheart's Dinner Dance
Continued from pg 2

They have raised and donated over 1.25 million dollars to dozens of foundations.

The Valentine's Day event is a fun affair and one of their most important fundraisers. It includes a three-course meal with wine, as well as the full "get acquainted" happy hour before hand with full bar and snacks. Ladies received a red rose, and there are valuable door prizes for quality jewelry, car rentals, dinners for two, activities and other coveted items.

The fun begins at 7:00 PM, including a night of dancing to one of the island's most popular bands. Tickets are available at the Radisson Resort Concierge Desk and the Executive Offices of the Casa Del Mar Resort, ask for Anoushka or call her at 582-7000.

For more information, contact Art Stark at 567-4102, or Dave at 568-8199. This is a superior way to spend Valentine's Day with your significant other while assisting worthy causes.

After dinner, the winners of the annual high-stakes raffle will be drawn. Tickets are an additional \$100, and the grand prize is \$2,000 cash. Second prize is a 14k White gold diamond ring donated by Noble Jewelers. Many other quality items, such as weeks at Playa Linda Resort, will be raffled. All proceeds of the raffle are for charity; contact the organizers to purchase a ticket or buy them at the dinner dance.

By Rosalie Klein



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'Identity Thief' tops N. America box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The comedy "Identity Thief" defied mediocre reviews by critics and topped the box office in the United States and Canada in its opening weekend, industry figures showed Monday.

The comedy, starring Jason Bateman from the TV series "Arrested Development" and "Bridesmaids" breakaway star Melissa McCarthy, pulled in \$34.6 million from Friday to Sunday, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations.

Salon.com said the movie

"reaches impressive heights of laziness and idiocy," the Toronto Star slammed it as a "sloppily made exercise of rip-offs and redemption;" and National Public Radio dismissed it as an "uninspired trudge of a road movie."

It was followed by the romantic zombie comedy "Warm Bodies," based on Isaac Marion's book of the same name and inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," which earned \$11.4 million.

Director Steven Soderbergh's new thriller, "Side Ef-



fects," starring Jude Law and Rooney Mara, opened in

third place with \$9.3 million.

Oscar-nominated romantic comedy "Silver Linings Playbook," starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, was fourth with \$6.4 million, followed by "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunt," a horror movie twist on the classic fairy tale starring Jeremy Renner, with \$5.8 million.

Horror flick "Mama" fell from fourth to sixth place with \$4.2 million, followed by the Oscar-tipped Osama bin Laden manhunt movie "Zero Dark Thirty" with \$4

million.

Director Ben Affleck's "Argo," the story of a bold CIA operation to rescue six US diplomats trapped by the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran, made the eighth spot, pulling in \$2.4 million.

It was followed by another Oscar nominee, Quentin Tarantino's blood-soaked spaghetti Western tribute "Django Unchained," with \$2.3 million.

Rounding off the list was Sylvester Stallone's latest action movie, "Bullet to the Head," with \$2.1 million.

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Pope Benedict XVI to resign in historic move

Continued from 1

"I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry," he said.

As tributes poured in from across the world, the Vatican emphasised that the former Joseph Ratzinger was not resigning due to any illness, following speculation over his frail appearance at recent ceremonies.

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said he expected a conclave of cardinals to be held in March within 15 or 20 days of the resignation and a new pope elected before Easter Sunday on March 31.

"The pope caught us a bit by surprise," Lombardi said at a hastily-arranged press conference.

Benedict's brother Georg Ratzinger told AFP he had known "for a few months" that he was planning to resign and was "feeling the burden of his age."

"It is a positive thing that he is handing over the office to younger hands," he added.

Some faithful said they hoped the move would signal a major change for the Church after a conservative pontificate that has been marred by scandals including most notably clerical child abuse.

Vatican observers have already begun speculating over who could succeed Benedict, with online betters tipping an African pope as the most likely.

But some say the number of cardinals from Europe and North America who can vote for a new pope -- 76 out of 118 -- could sway the choice to a Western state.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel led tributes from political and religious leaders across the globe, hailing Benedict as "one of the most significant religious thinkers of our time".

US President Barack Obama offered "our appreciation and prayers" on behalf of all Americans.

Justin Welby, leader of the world's Anglicans, said he understood "with a heavy heart" Benedict's decision, and that he had held his office with "great dignity, insight and courage".

The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel said Benedict XVI had improved ties between the two religions and which helped reduce anti-Semitism around the world.

Benedict, who succeeded the late pope John Paul II in 2005 and is known as a diehard traditionalist and a lightning rod for controversy, will retire to a monastery within the Vatican walls.

He said his "strength of mind and body... has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognise my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me."

He said he would be stepping down at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) on February 28, adding that he was "well aware of the seriousness of this act".

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Venezuela congratulates Iran on revolution anniversary

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela congratulated Iran Monday on the 34th anniversary of the Islamic revolution that toppled the country's last shah, and reaffirmed its close ties with Tehran.

A foreign ministry statement underscored Venezuela's "commitment" with the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad "to continue working together to build a multipolar world with no hegemony of any kind."

Venezuela and Iran both pursue anti-US foreign policies, and in recent years have signed five billion dollars in agreements to build in Venezuela cement factories, satellites, processed foods, tractors and bicycles.

President Hugo Chavez, who is convalescing from cancer surgery in Cuba, has made 13 visits to Iran since 1999.

Hagel confirmation hearing set for Tuesday: aide

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Senate Armed Services Committee will meet today to consider the nomination of Chuck Hagel to be the new US defense secretary, an aide to the committee chairman said.

Ex-senator Hagel has encountered stiff opposition from fellow Republicans who expressed concern about his positions on Iran, Israel and the US surge of troops during the Iraq war.

Last week committee chairman Senator Carl Levin postponed a committee vote on the nomination after Republican members demanded more information from Hagel, including the sources of payments for speeches he gave in recent years.

But Levin's office announced in an email Monday that he will now convene a committee meeting to consider Hagel's nomination on Tuesday at 2:30 pm (1930 GMT).

Cruise ship with 4,200 aboard adrift

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US cruise ship with more than 4,200 people aboard was adrift for a second day Monday off the coast of Mexico after an engine room fire crippled it, the US Coast Guard confirmed. The Carnival Triumph was operating on reserve power 240 kilometers (150 miles) off the Yucatan peninsula, and awaiting a tow vessel to pull it back to port at Progreso, Mexico, Carnival said. None of the 3,143 passengers and 1,086 crew aboard the 272 meter (893 foot) ship were injured in the fire. Carnival said passengers were being provided food and drink and that the ship was receiving provisions from a second Carnival vessel on the scene.

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International News

Obama to propose deep nuclear arms cuts: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama will use his State of the Union address on Tuesday to call for dramatic cuts in nuclear arsenals around the world, The New York Times reported.

Quoting unnamed administration officials, the newspaper said that in recent months Obama had secured agreement with the US military that its nuclear force can be cut by roughly a third.

In his speech Obama is unlikely to discuss specific numbers but White House officials are looking at a cut that would take the arsenal of deployed weapons to just above 1,000, the report said.

Currently, the United States has about 1,700 nuclear weapons, and the new strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia that passed the Senate at the end of 2009 calls for a limit of roughly 1,550 by 2018.

But Obama "believes that we can make pretty radical reductions -- and save a lot of money -- without compromising American security in the second term. And the Joint Chiefs have signed off on that concept," the Times quoted one official as saying.

However, the White House is loath to negotiate an entirely new treaty with Russia, which would lead to Russian demands for restrictions on US and NATO missile-defense systems in Europe and would revive a major fight with Republicans in the Senate over ratification, the paper said.

Instead, Obama is weighing how to reach an informal agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin for mutual cuts within the framework of the new START treaty, but without the need for ratification, The Times said.

Colombia quake damaged 100 houses, injured 15

BOGOTA (AFP) - A strong earthquake that shook Colombia over the weekend destroyed 100 houses and damaged nearly 2,000 others, authorities said Sunday. Only 15 people were injured, none seriously, they said.

The National Risk Management Unit said all areas affected by Saturday's quake had been reached, and the toll was definitive.

"A total of 15 people injured, 100 houses destroyed, 1,896 houses damaged," the agency said via Twitter.

Twenty-four schools and a clinic also were among the structures damaged by the quake, which registered 7.0 on the moment magnitude scale and 6.9 on the Richter scale.

Its epicenter was near Pasto, Colombia, a city of 400,000 that lies in the shadow of the Galeras volcano in the southwestern province of Narino.

The quake was felt as far away as Bogota and Quito, Ecuador.

36 killed as stampede mars India's Kumbh festival

ALLAHABAD (AFP) - At least 36 people died in a terrifying stampede as pilgrims headed home from India's Kumbh Mela religious festival, which drew a record 30 million people to the banks of the Ganges.

Dozens more were injured in the crush on Sunday evening at a railway station, marking a tragic end to the most auspicious day of the 55-day Hindu festival in northern India, the world's largest gathering of humanity.

Local officials said the railings on a bridge at the station had given way under the pressure of the mass of people, while witnesses said that police had baton-charged the crowd, triggering panic.

Injured people were stretchered away on ambulances from Allahabad station, but relatives said emergency services took hours to reach the scene. At least 10 corpses wrapped in white sheets could be seen on a platform several hours later.

Amit Malviya, a spokesman for the northern and central railway, told AFP on Monday that 20 bodies had been identified and authorities were waiting for relatives to come forward to claim another 16.

Of the identified dead, 14 were female and six were men, with the youngest victim an eight-year-old girl and the oldest a 75-year-old man, he said.

Hindus believe a dip in the sacred waters of the river Ganges cleanses them of their sins. This year's Mela is enormous even by previous standards, with astrologers saying a planetary alignment seen once every 147 years made it particularly auspicious for some pilgrims.

Police had been stretched in controlling the vast crowds, top local official Devesh Chaturvedi admitted earlier Sunday as the ongoing festival reached its peak, with one person dying for unknown reasons.

After the stampede, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh issued a statement saying that he was "deeply shocked to learn of the unfortunate incident" while Railways Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal headed to Allahabad to investigate.

Bansal denied that this had been the cause, PTI reported, saying that overcrowding on the platforms may have led to the stampede. But relatives of the victims blamed police for causing a panic which led to the accident.

The Kumbh Mela, which began last month and ends in March, takes place every 12 years in the northern city of Allahabad. Smaller, similar events

are held every three years in other locations around India.

Crushes are a constant menace at religious events in India, where policing and crowd control are often inadequate.

At the Kumbh Mela on Sunday, 30,000 volunteers and 7,000 police were on duty, urging pilgrims to take one short bath and then leave the waters to make space for the flow of humanity which stretched for kilometres (miles).

The event has its origins in Hindu mythology, which describes how a few drops of the nectar of immortality fell on the four places that host the festival -- Allahabad, Nasik, Ujjain and Haridwar.



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Health & Living

Briton is 10th case of SARS-like virus: health agency

LONDON (AFP) - A British resident has been diagnosed with a potentially fatal SARS-like virus, British health authorities said, in the 10th confirmed case worldwide.

The Health Protection Agency said the person, who recently travelled to the Middle East and Pakistan, was being treated at an intensive care unit at a hospital in Manchester, northwest England, after contracting novel coronavirus.

Travellers who develop severe breathing difficulties within 10 days of returning from the region should seek medical advice, said Watson.

This is the second case to hit Britain after a 49-year-old Qatari man was treated at a London hospital in September for the virus.

The HPA said five patients had died worldwide as a result of the disease.

Five cases have been confirmed in Saudi Arabia resulting in three deaths, while two patients treated in Jordan have died, the agency said. A patient from Qatar was treated for the virus in Germany and given the all-clear.

Coronaviruses cause most common colds but can also cause SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

The SARS epidemic killed more than 800 people when it swept out of China in 2003, sparking a major international health scare.

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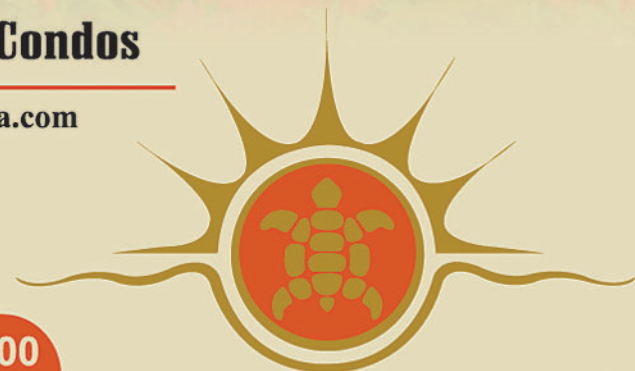
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Smoking out tobacco: The rise of the e-cig



PARIS (AFP) - The NJOY "cigarette" is electronic -- its tip lights up with the help of an LED and what appears to be smoke is actually water vapour.

The actor is not smoking, but "vaping".

"Cigarettes, you have met your match," proclaims the ad for a product that claims to mimic "the look, feel and flavour of the real thing" -- minus the tar, ash, smoke and most toxins.

NJOY is one of a flurry of e-cigs entering the market as tobacco prices skyrocket and smokers become ever more concerned about the toxins they inhale.

But the jury is still out on whether the gadgets are safe

or not.

There are concerns that these battery-driven alternatives, officially called electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), may pose health hazards we are not even aware of yet -- just like cigarettes before their ill-effects became clear.

The UN's health organ said some testing "suggests the presence of other toxic chemicals, aside from nicotine", and "strongly advised" consumers not to use them.

E-cigs first emerged in

China in 2003 as an alternative to tobacco, which kills nearly six million people each year.

Just like their predecessors in the 1950s and 60s, electronic cigarettes are being advertised with attractive women and rugged, virile men -- hinting at a better, more popular you.

It's a strategy that seems to work.

NJOY chief executive Craig Weiss told AFP that industry predictions are for electronic cigarette sales, which

have doubled in the United States every year since 2008, to reach \$1 billion (about 750,000 euros) in 2013.

The company would not comment on the health aspects.

According to Nitzkin, the hazard posed by traditional tobacco cigarettes is about 100 times higher than today's smokeless tobacco alternatives.

Nicotine can be harmful to children, pregnant women and adults with heart disease.

Sci-Tech

Dutch family sues Facebook over 'like' button patent

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The heirs of a Dutch Internet inventor are suing Facebook for allegedly infringing his patents with the US social networking site's "like" and "share" buttons, court documents seen on Monday said.

The family of Jos Van Der Meer, a computer scientist, programmer and inventor who died in 2004, is being represented by patent-holding company Rembrandt in the suit brought before a US court in Virginia on February 14.

The suit for unspecified damages claims Facebook's infringement of two related patents filed by Van Der Meer, who is described as "a pioneer in the development of user-friendly web-based technologies", in 1998.

One patent "claimed a novel technology that gave ordinary people... the ability to create and use what Van Der Meer called a personal diary," court papers said.

The system allowed people to "collect personal information and third-party content, organise the information

chronologically on a personalised web page and share the information with a selected group of people, such as the user's friends, through the use of user-settable privacy levels."

The second patent is for technology that enables "the automatic transfer, at a user's request, of third-party content from a content provider's website to the user's personal diary page" -- akin to Facebook's "share" or "like" buttons.

Van Der Meer set up a company to commercialise his inventions, Aduna, registered the surfbook.com website, and launched a pilot system, but died in 2004.

The inventor's family, including his widow, enlisted the help of Rembrandt, which says it works to help inventors and patent owners enforce their fights against companies that use their inventions without paying for them.

The suit notes that one of Facebook's own patents cited one of Van Der Meer's patents and so the company was aware of the infringement.



PARIS (AFP) - World solar power capacity passed the 100 gigawatt mark for the first time to 101 GW, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) said. "This global capacity to harness the power of the sun produces as much electricity energy in a year as 16 coal power plants or nuclear reactors of one GW each," the association said in a statement. An unprecedented 30 GW was added to the world grid in 2012 alone, EPIA added.



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ATENCION

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. ta informa publico en general cu e compania REPSOL lo haci un investigacion di exploracion sismico den lama rond di Aruba.

- E exploracion sismico aki ta tuma luga den cumplimiento di un contract entre REPSOL y CAP a base di articulo 3 y 4 di e "Petroleumverordening zeegebied Aruba".
- E investigacion sismico lo cuminsa dia 15 di februari 2013 y lo dura mas of menos 40 dia.
- E barco sismico SR/V VANTAGE lo rastra un kabel cu un largura di 6 kilometer pa 9 kilometer y un diameter di 6 centimeter na un profundidad di 8 meter pa 10 meter bao di awa.
- Dos otro barco di apoyo OMS RESOLUTION y ELIZABETH-C lo duna sosten logistico na e operacionnan di e investigacion y lo mantene comunicacion cu barconan den e area.
- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa coopera pa e investigacion por tuma lugar na un forma sigur y adecuado.

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL will be conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey will start the 15th of February 2013 and will have a duration of 40 days approximately.
- The seismic vessel SR/V VANTAGE will tow a submarine cable of 6 – 9 kilometers with a diameter of 6 centimeter at a depth of 8 - 10 meters below sealevel.
- Two support vessels OMS RESOLUTION and ELIZABETH-C will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
- CAP N.V. requests the co-operation of boat owners in order to ensure that the survey is conducted in a safe and proper manner.



COMPANIA ARUBANO DI PETROLEO



US tornadoes strike southern states, 60 injured



MIAMI (AFP) - Several powerful tornadoes ripped through the southern US states of Mississippi and Alabama injuring at least 60 people and destroying hundreds of homes at the weekend, emergency officials said Monday.

The city of Hattiesburg in Mississippi's Forrest County bore the brunt of the storms, with heavy rain continuing to lash the region and create a

risk of flooding.

"Two people were critically hurt in Lemar County right next to Hattiesburg, but no deaths have been reported at this stage," Greg Flynn, a spokesman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), told AFP.

The bad weather, however, destroyed hundreds of homes and caused damage to the campus of the University of

Southern Mississippi, authorities said.

A spokeswoman for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) said that while the area was hit by bad weather on Sunday it had so far received no reports of injuries.

The National Weather Service said flooding and flash flooding will become a concern if rainfall continues to add up across the lower Mississippi valley.



COMICS



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ACROSS

1. Bohr's bit
5. Disfigurement
9. "___ for Adano"
14. Taylor of "Dogfight"
15. Scots Gaelic
16. Worthiness
17. Wallet fillers
18. November urging
19. Lend ___ (help)
20. 1951 film
23. Leather strip
24. Feel icky
25. Zeno follower
28. Resorts
31. Mold
35. Got the old-fashioned way
37. Serpentine curve
38. Narc's org.
39. 1962 film
43. Kid
44. Refrain syllable
45. Takes care of
46. ___ pearl
48. Rural lodging spots
50. Playboy's plethora
51. Went at a clip
53. In ___ (bored)
55. 1938 film
62. Gal pursued by Brutus
63. Duds
64. On a cruise
65. Greens' features
66. Downwind

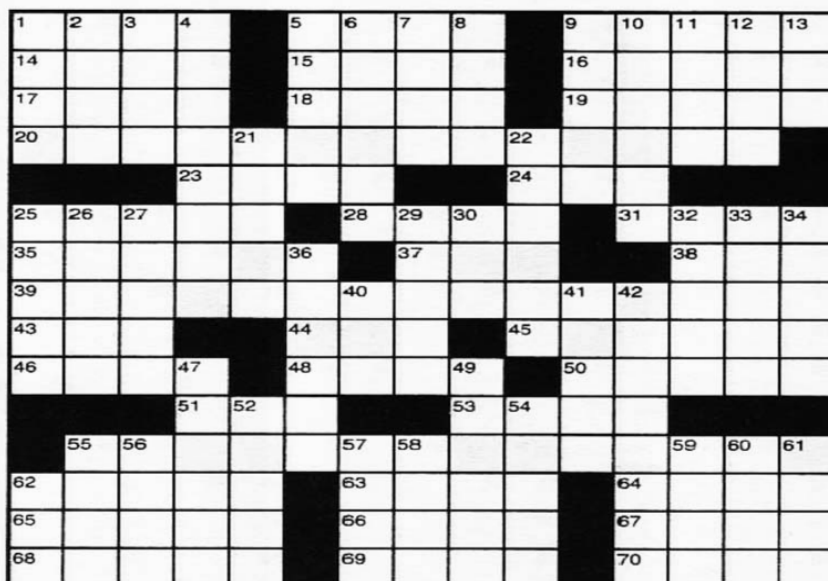
67. Legal holding
68. Bouquet
69. Eton's plethora
70. Spree

DOWN

1. Tilted
2. Fork part
3. Bread spread
4. Publication error
5. Deadly Sins number
6. Throngs
7. Sparkling-wine exporter
8. Virginia dance
9. Famed violinmaker
10. In ___ of (by proxy)

11. Of a time
12. Nexus
13. Inc., in London
21. Boot tie
22. Rodeo props
25. Paving stones
26. California-Nevada lake
27. Harangue
29. Sticky pie variety
30. Symbol of Lent
32. Pindar or Keats
33. Annuity: Fr.
34. Warm-water sharks
36. Like a mama's boy's mama
40. Amphora
41. Out of

- patience
42. Grinder filler
47. Possessed
49. Drooped
52. "___ of robins in her hair"
54. Tricks
55. Political alliance
56. Annoy
57. Eur. language
58. Lopez's theme
59. Home of the Mongols
60. Frat party staple
61. Reb's enemy
62. Comprehension sounds



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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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1	9	7	2	8	5	3
2	5	6	3	1	4	8
9	2	8	7	5	3	1
7	5	8	2	1	6	9
4	6	1	9	3	8	5
6	7	2	9	4	1	8
5	1	9	8	7	2	6
3	8	4	6	1	7	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Oil prices diverge after recent highs

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices fell in London on Monday as dealers took profits from recent gains, but the market rebounded in New York as the euro strengthened against the dollar after supportive comments from the Bundesbank.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in March fell 42 cents to \$118.48 per barrel in London late afternoon deals.

The contract on Friday scaled a nine-month peak at \$119.17 a barrel on healthy economic data -- and owing to geopolitical concerns after crude producer Iran rejected a US offer on nuclear talks, traders said.

Meanwhile on Monday, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for March or West Texas Intermediate (WTI), rebounded by \$1.02 to \$96.74 a barrel, clawing back earlier losses.

The weaker greenback makes dollar-priced crude cheaper for buyers using stronger currencies. In turn, that tends to stimulate oil demand and prices.

Meanwhile, analysts said optimism over stronger energy demand sparked by robust US and Chinese trade data should keep prices supported.

The US Commerce Department reported last Friday that the trade deficit shrank more than expected in December to \$38.5 billion, its lowest level since January 2010, from a revised \$48.6 billion in November.

Wind farms turn in record growth in 2012: trade body



PARIS (AFP) - Wind farms added a record 44.7 gigawatts of electricity production last year, increasing capacity 19 percent to 282.5 gigawatts, the Global Wind Energy Council said Monday.

The trade body said the United States had a record year, adding more than 13 gigawatts of wind capacity due to tax incentives, helping it nearly tie China where growth in the construction of wind turbines slowed.

"While China paused for breath, both the US and European markets had exceptionally strong years," said

Steve Sawyer, Secretary General of the Global Wind Energy Council.

"Asia still led global markets, but with North America a close second, and Europe not far behind," he added in a statement.

China added 13.2 gigawatts of wind generation capacity last year, while India added 2.3 gigawatts, but the GWEC said it expected a rebound and Asia to once again dominate the market.

In terms of installed capacity, the EU is still top with 37.5 percent of the total at 282.5 gigawatts.

China follows with 26.8 percent of installed capacity, then the United States at 21.2 percent.

India has 6.5 percent of installed wind capacity and Canada 2.2 percent.

Europe also remains top in offshore wind farms with 90 percent of the 1.3 gigawatts installed last year.

With each wind turbine producing about 2 megawatts of electricity, around 22,350 were installed last year, according to AFP calculations.

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Colgate to take hit from Venezuela devaluation

NEW YORK (AFP) - US consumer goods giant Colgate-Palmolive said Monday it would take a significant loss in the current quarter from Venezuela's 32 percent currency devaluation announced last week.

The company said that in a preliminary assessment of the impact of the devaluation of the bolivar, it would take a one-time after-tax loss of \$120 million, or \$0.25 per share, in the 2013 first quarter, "related to the re-measurement of the local balance sheet at the date of the devaluation."

There would also be an ongoing impact of five to seven cents a share each quarter in 2013 related to adjusting local Venezuela financial statements to the new currency regime, Colgate said.

However, it added, "The devaluation will not have any impact on the company's 2012 results of operations or financial position."

In a long-awaited move, on Friday Caracas announced it would devalue the bolivar by 32 percent, effective Wednesday, on the orders of cancer-stricken President Hugo Chavez.

The bolivar will move from 4.3 to the dollar to 6.3, at the official exchange rate.

Shares of Colgate, the maker of global consumer goods, including Colgate toothpaste, Palmolive soap, Ajax cleaner and Sanex skin products, were down 0.1 percent at \$108.43 after losing 1.5 percent Friday on the devaluation announcement.

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Grammys shared among many on music's big night



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Indie pop band fun., rockers The Black Keys and Australian-Belgian singer Gotye shared the top prizes at the Grammys on Sunday, in an eclectic year for the music industry's biggest awards show.

New York-based fun. won Song of the Year for "We Are Young" as well as best new artist at the 55th Grammy Awards held at the Staples Center.

British rockers Mumford & Sons took Album of the Year with "Babel," while Gotye won Record of the Year for "Somebody That I Used to Know," featuring Kimbra.

"I feel like it's my 21st birthday," said fun. frontman Nate Ruess, noting that he was

actually 30 years old and that the band had been going for 12 years, but had nothing

ings of the music world's younger and older generations: Sting singing a tribute



against being named best new artist.

The night saw several pair-

ings of the music world's younger and older generations: Sting singing a tribute to reggae pioneer Bob Marley; Elton John with fellow Brit Ed Sheeran; and Prince handing a prize to Gotye.

Overall The Black Keys won the most Grammys, with four -- best rock performance, best rock song and best rock album for the band, and producer of the year, non-classical, for singer Dan Auerbach.

Gotye took home three trophies -- Record of the Year, best pop duo/group performance and best alternative album -- as did Jay-Z and Kanye West, who triumphed for best rap performance, rap/sung collaboration and rap song.

Not only was "Somebody That I Used to Know" one of the biggest-selling singles of last year, it has also scored nearly 400 million views on YouTube, demonstrating the advertising power of the Internet platform.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Gotye was "an outstanding example of the quality of the artistic talent in Australia today".

Taylor Swift opened the show as a ringmaster in white hot pants and a spangly top hat, with a circus-themed performance of her hit "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

On a night when performers and presenters were warned not to show too much skin, Jennifer Lopez provided the first fashion moment of the telecast, baring a toned leg and shoulder in an asymmetrical black Anthony Vaccarello gown.

"As you can see, I read the memo!" she joked when she came on stage to present the first award of the night with Pitbull, referring to the leaked letter from broadcasters CBS about the dress code.

British songstress Adele -- who scored a clean sweep with six Grammys last year -- won that first prize, for best solo performance for a live rendition of her hit "Set Fire to the Rain."

"My good luck charm, J-Lo," she said as she accepted the award from Lopez. "This is amazing. I wanted to come and be part of the night. I loved it last year, obviously."

Other highlights of the three-and-a-half hour show included a rousing tribute to Marley, featuring Sting, Bruno Mars, Rihanna and Ziggy, Stephen and Damian Marley.

They segued from Hawaiian-born Mars' hit "Locked out of Heaven" into ex-Police frontman Sting's reggae-rhythmed "Walking on the

Moon," before breaking into Marley's classic "Could You Be Loved?"

Heartthrob Justin Timberlake also brought the house down with a couple of songs from his new album "The 20/20 Experience," starting with "Suit and Tie" -- in which he was suitably attired.



As the telecast went briefly black and white, he was joined by Jay-Z to sing "Pusher Lover Girl."

In a two-hour pre-telecast show, Paul McCartney won for best traditional pop vocal album for "Kisses on the Bottom," while Beyonce won best traditional R&B performance for "Love on Top."

A frail-looking Beach Boy Brian Wilson was honored for best historical album and late Indian sitar legend Ravi Shankar won best world music album for "The Living Room Sessions Part 1."

In the main Grammy show's traditional In Memoriam segment, John, Mumford & Sons and others paid tribute to Levon Helm, the late drummer and singer with The Band.



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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with

3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely

no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal

gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.



Sport

Alpine skiing: All-rounder Ligety greets 'surreal' win



SCHLADMING, Austria (AFP) - Ted Ligety's super-combined gold here Monday was his third world title, but each one has been in a different discipline and that's how the American all-rounder likes it.

The 28-year-old last week won the men's super-G event to add to his 2011 giant slalom title, before he raced ahead of favourite Ivica Kostelic on Monday to snatch the super-combined title as well.

His only win so far in this discipline had been at the Olympics in Turin in 2006.

With such versatility, it was only natural Ligety should succeed in the super-combined, which is decided on the aggregate times from one downhill and one slalom run, requiring both technical skill and speed.

Sixth after the downhill, he overcame a 0.72sec deficit to produce a stunning second-fastest slalom run for an aggregate time of 2min 56.96sec.

"The downhill performance for me is what I'm really proud of," he said.

Silver medallist Kostelic admitted he was bested by his US rival.

Austrian Romed Baumann, whose surprise third place was greeted with deafening noise in

the packed Schladming arena, acknowledged he had been under pressure from an expectant host nation.

"I heard the stadium speaker and he was screaming 'you're in second position' and the crowd was screaming... it was really close but luck was on my side and I'm very happy about it."

Tennis: Nadal remains fifth in rankings after final defeat



VINA DEL MAR (AFP) - Argentine Horacio Zeballos (L) celebrates his victory over Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal (R).



-Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Argentine Horacio Zeballos at the ATP Vina del Mar tournament final singles match, in Vina del Mar, about 120 km northwest of Santiago - Chile, on February 10, 2013. Zeballos won 6-7 (2/6), 7-6 (8/6) and 6-4.



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Football: Keshi says he has quit as Nigeria coach



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nigeria coach Stephen Keshi told a South African radio station Monday that he had resigned after leading his country to the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations title.

"I gave the national football federation my letter of resignation immediately after the final, but I have not heard from them," Keshi admitted to public broadcaster SABC.

Keshi dropped hints last week of his unhappiness with Nigerian football officials during a media conference in Durban before the semi-final drubbing of Mali, saying he

would "pack his bags and leave" if unwanted.

"If, back home, they do not like what I am doing, well, you cannot force someone to like you," said only the second Nations Cup-winning coach after the late Egyptian Mahmoud El Gohary to also achieve the feat as a player.

Keshi captained Nigeria to victory over Zambia in the 1994 final and guided his country to a 1-0 win over Burkina Faso Sunday in a Soweto final settled by a Sunday Mba goal five minutes before half-time.





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Golf: McIlroy, Tiger head field for WGC Match Play



MARANA, Arizona (AFP) - World No. 1 Rory McIlroy and 14-time major champion Tiger Woods lead the qualifiers announced on Monday for next week's World Golf Championships Match Play Championship.

The top 64 in Monday's world golf rankings were set for the showdown near Tucson but exact brackets will not be established until Sunday, in part because players have until Friday to commit to play in the \$8.75 million event.

Defending champion Hunter Mahan, ranked 26th, will also be in the field for the event, which begins next Wednesday with 32 first-round matches at Dove Mountain.

South Africa's Richard Sterne made a major jump Sunday to book a berth in the field, leaping from 94th to 55th in the rankings by virtue of his victory at the Joburg Open.

Six other players moved from outside the top 64 at the start of the year to crack the lineup for the WGC Match Play, including Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee, who was 80th to open the year and now ranks 54th.

The group also includes



Three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson, ranked 10th, has said he will not play in the event, allowing 65th-ranked Shane Lowry of Ireland to advance into the field and make his first career start in the 64-player event.

If that position holds, Lowry would open against Northern Ireland's McIlroy, last year's PGA Championship winner.

McIlroy, Woods, England's Luke Donald and American Brandt Snedeker, who won last week's title at Pebble Beach and last year's US PGA playoff crown, would be top seeds if their ranking position holds.

South African Tim Clark, Scotsman Stephen Gallacher, England's Chris Wood and Americans Charles Howell and Russell Henley.

Lowry edged Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson for the last spot in the lineup when Patrick Reed sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at Pebble Beach to share seventh with Jacobson and prevent the Swede from being ranked 65th.

At 66, Jacobson is first alternate at this stage ahead of No. 67 Bernd Wiesberger of Austria and Dane Anders Hansen.

Boxing: Peterson set to defend crown after 14-month layoff



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lamont Peterson, finally set to defend the title he took from Britain's Amir Khan in controversial fashion 14 months ago, says his long layoff will not be a problem against Kendall Holt next week.

Peterson won a controversial split decision in Washington over Khan after the Englishman was twice penalized a point for pushing. A planned rematch last May was called off after Peterson tested positive for a synthetic testosterone.

The World Boxing Association restored its light-welterweight crown to Khan but the International Boxing Federa-

tion accepted an appeal by Peterson.

When Zab Judah bowed out as mandatory challenger for another bout, Holt had his title chance and Peterson finally had an opponent. The two will meet on February 22 in Peterson's hometown of Washington.

Peterson, 30-1-1 with 15 knockouts, will be the fighter who ends an 11-month layoff by Holt, a former World Boxing Organization light-welterweight champion who has been out following right shoulder surgery.

Among Holt's sparring partners has been former world welterweight champion Shane Mosley.

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NBA: James sets record as Heat beat Lakers



MIAMI (AFP) - Guard Dwyane Wade scored 16 of his 30 points in the final quarter as the Miami Heat defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 107-97 in a National Basketball Association matchup Sunday at American Airlines Arena.

Miami star forward LeBron James finished with 32 points and seven rebounds as he set a club record by scoring at

least 30 points in five consecutive games.

"You could feel the buzz in the arena today," said James. "We were just happy that we were able to play our game, weather some of their storms that they had and come out with a win."

Chris Bosh posted a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who have won five straight.

Mario Chalmers had 13 points, four rebounds and three assists in the win.

Kobe Bryant paced the

Lakers with 28 points and nine assists as Los Angeles lost for the second time in three games.

Earl Clark finished with 18 points and nine rebounds, and Dwight Howard had 15 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles.

NFL: Vick agrees to new deal with Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Michael Vick has agreed to a restructured contract to remain with the Philadelphia Eagles but will have to fight to keep his starting quarterback job, the NFL club announced on Monday.

The deal, reportedly for only the 2013 season, will give Vick a chance to show new Eagles coach Chip Kelly what he can do with a team that struggled to a 4-12 record last season, but with rival Nick Foles also in the talent mix.

Foles replaced Vick as the starter late last season after Vick was sidelined by a concussion.

Vick has played for the Eagles for the past four seasons since serving a prison term for his role in a dogfight gambling ring, making 35 starts for the club that took a chance on the

former Atlanta Falcons star.

With the Eagles, Vick has completed 60.2 percent of his passes for 51 touchdowns and 30 interceptions as well as running for 1,597 yards over the past three seasons. But Vick, 32, also fumbled 12 times.

"I've followed Michael's career and I understand what a talent he is," Kelly said. "Our sole focus and goal is that we're going to put an offense on the field that's going to score points. Whoever that is, I don't know. There's nobody ruled in. There's nobody ruled out."

Foles, 24, completed 60.8 percent of his passes for six touchdowns and five interceptions but is more of a typical dropback passer than the run-pass threat Vick offers.

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